This report gives an overview of progress on addressing community priorities in West Luton under the themes of ‘safer and stronger communities’, ‘health and wellbeing’ and ‘environment and economy’ as agreed by local people, councillors and council partners as part of the ‘Your Say, Your Way’ programme.
As part of the ‘Your Say, Your Way’ programme 32 community projects are being delivered in West Luton to improve local neighbourhoods. The projects which are being supported and monitored include:

Challney Ward has 10 projects including; Challney Cricket Club, East West Dragons, Futsal Streetball, Luton Allstars, Luton Boys ABC, Festival Users Committee and Suffa Tul Islam Girls Group.

Leagrave Ward has 9 projects including; Hockwell Homework Club, Hockwell Youth Club, Leagrave Scouts, Hockwell Senior

The next cycle of funding will open for applications in early 2016, for further information please call Sultan Khan on 01582 548780.

A day trip to Eastbourne Seaside Resort was organised by Chaul End Community Centre staff on 14 August. The trip gave families from the Challney Ward the opportunity to enjoy the beach and see the famous “Red Arrows” perform. It also allowed people to socialise and form new friendships, with community centre staff being able to interact more in a relaxed environment.

Funding enabled the centre to subsidise the trip, which allowed local families the opportunity to attend. Income from this trip will help to sustain future projects, for example it could help fund another play scheme during October half-term.

Family Trip to Eastbourne & Air Show

For more information call Chaul End Centre on 01582 557155.

Challney Festival

The outdoor festival was held on 16 August and was opened by the Mayor of Luton, Cllr Dave Taylor.

The event was well attended and around 300 people enjoyed the array of festival activities, which included face painting, bouncy castles and an obstacle course.

There were also performances by singers and dancers, stalls and a football tournament organised by local Futsal coaches. All those who participated in the tournament were awarded a medal by Cllr Yasmin Waheed.

The event also included a Health Fair where attendees could get advice and information on diet, fitness and stopping smoking. The neighbourhood governance team also took the opportunity to give people updates on the ongoing funded projects in the Challney ward.

If you would like to be involved in future events or become a volunteer please contact the Chaul End centre on 01582 557155.

Hockwell Homework Club will be re-starting on Fridays from the 11 September. Proposed sessions will run from 4pm till 5.30pm, with healthy refreshments provided.

The Junior Youth Club will be restarting on the 16 September and will continue to provide a safe environment for young people to attend and enjoy the structured programme.

A New Senior Youth Club will be starting at Hockwell Ring Community Centre on 5 September.

We are keen to recruit local volunteers to support activities at Hockwell Ring Community Centre, if you are interested in getting involved please call the Hockwell Community Centre on 01582 548394.
Live Well Luton

Live Well Luton’s new stop smoking campaign encourages smokers to find out the shocking truth about the age of their lungs, with the help of a smartphone app. The Lungclock app can determine how much smoking has aged a person’s lungs and asks users to submit key pieces of information such as their age, how much they smoke a day and how long they have smoked for. The app also uses an innovative tool which requires the user to breathe into their phone’s microphone as part of the measurement. As well as encouraging people to stop smoking, the Lungclock app will also be useful to people who are in the process of quitting as they will be able to use it to see how their lung age is improving.

To get in touch with Live Well Luton about the free stop smoking support on offer, visit www.livewell-luton.org.uk or call 01582 757635.

Update from the Luton CCG

Following a major procurement exercise last year, East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT) have taken over as the new provider of mental health services for adults and children from South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT). This has included the transfer of SEPT staff and premises to ELFT. Throughout this period of transition, the CCG has continued to work with the Mental Health Reference Group, made up of members of the public, to keep them informed of the progress. ELFT have given their commitment to work with both patients and members of the public to continue to improve and develop services focussed on the needs of local people.

The CCG was also looking to establish a new community physical health service for adults and children. Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS) will continue for two years as the provider in Luton and this Autumn we’ll consider options for future service development or procurement, for the period beyond April 2017.

The procurement also identified Virgin Care as providers of the Intermediate Care Service, which was previously provided by CCS. Handover of this service was successful and Virgin Care continues to make improvements to this service for its patients.

Four GP Practice Consultation

NHS England and the CCG will be undertaking a Public Consultation on the future of four GP practices in Luton this Autumn. The GP contracts are coming to an end and there are a number of options which could improve the availability and quality of GP services. These options will be set out in the consultation. The practices involved are:

1. Town Centre Practice
2. Moakes Medical Centre
3. Whipperley Medical Centre
4. Sundon Park Health Centre

Urgent Care Strategy

In the coming year the CCG will be implementing elements of the Urgent Care Strategy, which will include improving and simplifying the way in which people in Luton gain access to urgent medical help. To this end, we will soon be seeking your views on what elements of the current services have worked well for you and also what you think could be improved.

If you wish to share your views now, you can do so by emailing contactus@lutonccg.nhs.uk – please mark your email as Urgent Care feedback.

Better Care Teams – Frail & Elderly

Patients in Luton are already benefiting from the new way their care is planned through the Better Care teams. The teams support GPs to focus on more proactive care and support for frail and elderly patients with the remaining two clusters due to roll-out this approach soon. The aim of this approach is that frail and elderly patients are kept well and at home (including if this is a care or nursing home) reducing the need for hospital admission leading to longer, healthier and more independent lives. We will provide more information on the implementation of this new approach as it progresses.
**Community Cohesion in Luton**

June to September is a very busy time for community cohesion in Luton. A big thank you to everyone who helped sponsor, organise or participate in any or all events!

**Archbishop of Canterbury visits Luton**

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby visited Luton in June as part of a tour of the Diocese of St Albans. The theme of the visit centred on transforming communities and reconciliation.

The Archbishop of Canterbury spent time at St Mary’s Church and Luton Mall, accompanied by members of the Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy, before arriving at the Town Hall for a lunchtime reception.

The Archbishop then gave a short address, followed by a question and answer session with guests that included Mayor of Luton Cllr Dave Taylor, Leader of the Council Cllr Hazel Simmons, Chief Executive Trevor Holden and representatives from local communities. The Archbishop also took the opportunity to sign a community petition.

**7/7 victims remembered**

On 7/7/15 Luton’s communities joined together in commemoration of those killed in the bombings in London 10 years ago.

Members of the Christian and Muslim communities, in association with Luton in Harmony, staged an event that started in St George’s Square before proceeding up to Market Hill.

Event organisers Peter Adams and Rehana Faisal described the event as “a positive statement about our future by people from different communities walking together in harmony here in Luton”.

**Tribute to victims of Tunisia attack**

A large crowd gathered outside the Town Hall to pay tribute to the victims of the terrorist attack in Tunisia.

The event was organised by LCOF (Luton Council of Faith’s) and Council representatives including the Chief Executive, Mayor and Deputy Mayor joined Luton community leaders to observe a minute’s silence in tribute to those killed in the attack at the resort of Sousse.

A spokesperson for LCOF explained: “We strongly condemn such actions of mindless violence. While such extremist minorities continue to stir up hatred, division and violence, we call upon the vast majority of peace loving people from across different faiths and also those with no particular faith affiliation, to reflect and act together on our mutual obligations for peaceful coexistence.”

A ‘Book of Condolence’ was set up by the Council in the Town Hall lobby for members of the public to sign and Luton’s involvement in the tributes was reported nationally by the BBC.

Rehana Faisal, from the Sunni Council, spoke to the crowd on the day. Below is a shortened excerpt from her speech.

“On the 7th of July 2005, 52 people were murdered. All of them were innocent victims of hate. I thought long and hard about what I would talk to you about. We spend so much time, too much time, talking about the killers. I want to talk about some of the victims of that awful day, about who they were and how we best honour their memories.

Let me start by telling you about Ojara Ikeagwu, she was a mum of 3 from right here in Luton. Then there was Behnaz Mozakka who worked at Great Ormond Street hospital. Attique Sharifi was just 24 years old, he was an Afghani Muslim, whose parents were both killed when he was a teenager. Miriam Hyman raised money in her spare time for a cancer charity.

So, how do we truly honour these people? These loving, caring and compassionate people. Think of the people who you have met, who have walked side by side with you. Think of Attique, who came to the UK with so much hope. Think of our local children, I am sure that is what Ojara and Behnaz would have done. Come together as a community, in a way Miriam would have wanted us to. That would be a fitting memorial; that is the best way to honour all of the people that we have lost-not just 10 years ago in London, but globally, before then, and sadly after.

Let’s continue to Walk Together.”
‘Big Iftar’

Luton hosted a major event to help increase people’s understanding of Islam on the 10 July.

The event, which coincided with the daily breaking of the Muslim fast during the holy month of Ramadan, was well attended by people from many different communities. There were presentations from the Mayor of Luton Cllr Dave Taylor and a number of local faith groups and charities including Churches Together, Lewsey Farm Masjid and Discover Islam. To coincide with the breaking of the fast, those who attended then shared a meal together.

The theme of the event was ‘ensuring no-one in Luton goes hungry’ and people were encouraged to donate non-perishable food items to the Luton Foodbank.

The ‘Big Iftar’ was organised by Luton in Harmony, Inspire FM, Chaul End Children’s Center, LBC, Bedfordshire Police, Luton Cultural Services Trust and many other community partners. Food for the ‘Big Iftar’ was sponsored by a number of Luton companies including Venue Central, Buffalo Grill, Chaul End Children’s Centre, Nasons, Halifax Foods, Nadeem Plaza and Euro Halal.

Flying Start 2014-2024: Luton’s Pregnancy to Five Strategy

Flying Start is Luton’s prevention and early help strategy, supporting babies and young children from pregnancy to five. It has been developed in partnership with parents, community representatives and local services.

The aim of the strategy is to ensure that babies are given the ‘best start in life’, delivering services that will improve their communication and language skills, support healthy bonding between parents and young children and encourage healthy diet and lifestyles for young children and their families.

Flying Start also works with young people, our parents of the future. Projects with this group have included:

- Training Luton’s children’s workforce in Five to Thrive, an approach to support parents to use the five simple techniques: Respond, Cuddle, Relax, Play and Talk. So far over 350 staff have been trained and are delivering these key messages to parents;
- Developing the Flying Start Worker model – providing early support for families during pregnancy, working with community midwives, and integrating Flying Start Workers with health visitors and children centre partners;
- Piloting the Bumps, Babies and Toddlers Plus drop-in clinic in Park Town: midwives, health visitors and children centre staff working together with a Flying Start Worker to deliver one-stop support for parents;
- Implementing the Sign 4 Little Talkers, Sign 4 Big Feelings and Baby Babble interventions and expanding the Bump to Babe antenatal parenting programme across Luton.

Flying Start is also committed to harnessing the skills and passion of volunteers to make a real difference to communities. Volunteers are currently being recruited to deliver projects including:

- Communication and language development: volunteers deliver key messages to parents about communication and language development in babies and toddlers;
- Supporting healthy lifestyles: volunteers encourage and support parents in leisure activities with their children;
- Peer-to-peer support for fathers.

Flying Start volunteers can gain accredited qualifications and are fully supported. For information about our work and volunteering opportunities, visit our website www.flyingstartluton.com.

Giving Children in Luton a

From pregnancy to 5 years
Community Learning Fund

Luton Adult Learning and The Learning Partnership worked together to form the Community Learning Fund which, during 2014-15, provided funding to 20 local projects.

The fund was launched to support and encourage Voluntary, Community, Third sector and Not For Profit organisations to deliver innovative learning that supports disadvantaged adults. It also aims to encourage organisations to address key local priorities and meet the purpose of the Community Learning fund which is to:

- Maximise access to community learning for adults, bringing new opportunities and improving lives, whatever people's circumstances
- Promote social renewal by bringing local communities together to experience the joy of learning and the pride that comes with achievement
- Maximise the impact of community learning on the social and economic well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Luton Adult Learning have partnered with a number of local organisations including:

- Luton Town Football Club, who successfully delivered a coaching programme to provide coaches to support local community grass roots sports sessions.
- NOAH, who provided learning opportunities to support people who were out of work or homeless to develop their computer, cookery and home maintenance skills.
- The Luton Community Health Forum who empowered women to "negotiate their way to better health," focusing on health related issues and accessing services.
- Luton Mind, provided sessions to encourage and develop interpersonal skills, assertiveness and confidence building, lifestyle balance, managing stress, depression and anxiety, setting goals, communications skills, diet, exercise and sleep management and motivational skills.
- Marsh Farm Outreach who delivered learning to a number of local unemployed residents from the Marsh Farm Estate. The 5 day course focused on grassroots economic development techniques, which have been developed over 15 years of working with the community to help transform Marsh Farm.

The Community Learning Fund will continue in 2015-2016.

For more information on how to get involved, for information on the courses offered by LAL or the project work they support please visit www.lutonacl.ac.uk, contact clt@lutonacl.ac.uk or call 01582 490033.

Corporate Volunteering

In August 8 employees from the Luton-based travel provider TUI UK & Ireland gave their time at Stockwood Park gardening, weeding and laying bark.

In the same month, as part of the National Citizenship Service (NCS) programme, a group of young volunteers painted rooms at the Hat Factory giving them a much needed make over.

TUI UK & Ireland and other local businesses regularly support local community projects like this as part of Luton Borough Council’s volunteer scheme.

Volunteering strengthens businesses, motivates staff and makes a real difference in communities. As well as making people feel good, volunteering has a proven record of improving employee engagement. Community-based team building events have successfully contributed to developing team cohesion, staff morale and motivation while making a substantial contribution within the community. Importantly, they are also extremely enjoyable, rewarding and satisfying.

Please contact volunteering@luton.gov.uk for further information and current opportunities.

Dame Kelly Holmes Trust ‘Get on track’

The Dame Kelly Holmes Trust ‘Get on track’ programme is for 16-25 year olds and aims to give young people the self-discipline, motivation and confidence to enhance their chances of employment.

Luton Borough Council’s Community Development Service has been working with the trust and other local partners to deliver the latest programme this summer. Professional athletes Andrew Spinks (basketball) and Elizabeth Cann (badminton) also offered support throughout the course too, using their experience of competition to help motivate the young people while also sharing personal advice with them.

One young person who has gone through a massive transformation as a result of the programme is Harry Whittaker. He said: “Before the course started I was feeling lost and directionless. I needed to do something to rediscover what I had lost and luckily spotted an advert for the course on Facebook.

The course was challenging and rewarding. I had my resilience proven when placed out of my comfort zone during snowboarding and climbing. And my nerves tested when delivering a group presentation to corporate businesses.

These were once in a lifetime opportunities that I feel privileged to have had; and it’s all because of this programme. I think I speak for all of the participants when I say it’s not the end of our personal journeys, it is only the beginning.”

The programme provided young people with the opportunity to explore potential careers across a range of industries with work experience and practice interviews.

Harry and others have gained employment following the programme, while others have signed up to further study.
Another successful Lewsey Community Festival was held on 27 June. The great weather meant that over 1500 people attended on the day. Those that came enjoyed performances by Rythmix Dance School, Thornhill Majorettes and Ellie Jade Reilly. There was Irish Dancing, Fight Fit & kettle size displays, Karate, Smith’s fun fair, Dog Show, Roller-skating, Skate boarding, Inflatables, Karaoke and much more! There were also more than 40 stalls for people to enjoy and get information on local services. Twelve teams took part in a five-a-side football tournament, with Kent Athletic crowned as champions after they beat the 90’s babies in the final. The event was organised by Lewsey Community Festival Committee which includes Local Councillors, Luton Culture, Lewsey Park Residents Assoc, Luton Dog Wardens, Parks department, Lewsey Christian Church, and other Lewsey Community Volunteers.

Re-launch of Fitness/Multi-Sports Games
Dallow Business Partnership, alongside Global Soccer, will host a 12 week fitness and multi sports games group which will include weekly Futsal football for children aged 5-12 years. All coaches are qualified and are CRB/DBS checked, insured and are first aid qualified. Sessions restart 8 September at Hockwell Ring Community Centre, Mayne Avenue, Luton. The programme will include non competitive fitness games and fun activities, which will help encourage healthy choices and develop skills such as motivation, team working and friendship building. Parents are encouraged to stay and be involved, to share in the project and to volunteer. Parents can also use the sessions as an opportunity to encourage their child to be healthy and have fun.

For more information call 07968 778681 or Hockwell Ring Community Centre on 01582 548394.

Playschemes and Family Trips
Lewsey Community Centre hosted a summer playscheme for local 5-10 year olds from the 3 – 14 August. Around 25 children attended most days and enjoyed a wide variety of organised activities. Including arts & crafts, a sports day, fancy dress disco, and movie day. Unfortunately the bad weather forced the cancellation of the popular ‘Big One’ water games session but the children enjoyed an alternative indoor game. Four family summer trips were organised to Great Yarmouth, Southend, Wickstead Park, and Bedford Oasis, enabling local parents and children who might not usually have been able to have a summer break to see different places and enjoy new experiences.

Lewsey Farm Empowered – Youth Project
Lewsey Farm Empowered (LyFE) held a series of projects and events over the summer to improve access to support and give young people the opportunity to take part in constructive activities. Each event was carefully planned by volunteers to ensure the young people enjoyed their experience. Events included a Food Drive, a day trip to the National History Museum, Science Museum & Regents Park and a five–a-side football tournament. The events were all well attended, 140 people enjoyed the day trip into London whilst the Tournament drew in 25 players across 5 teams. Samil, 17, was part of the winning football team and said; “It was fun and the victory was truly deserved”, whilst Connor, 16, was a runner up and commented; “I thought it was very good, enjoyed it, was fun, I think we should do it again”.

Re-launch of Fitness/Multi-Sports Games
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For more information call 07968 778681 or Hockwell Ring Community Centre on 01582 548394.
Your Local Councillors

Challney

Cllr Yasmin Waheed – Yasmin.Waheed@luton.gov.uk
Cllr Tahir Malik – Tahir.Malik@luton.gov.uk
Cllr Tom Shaw – Tom.Shaw@luton.gov.uk

Councillor Surgeries
Every Saturday 10am - 12noon,
Chaul End Centre, 515 Dunstable Road

Leagrave

Cllr Waheed Akbar – Waheed.Akbar@luton.gov.uk
Cllr Sameera Saleem – Sameera.Saleem@luton.gov.uk
Cllr Sheila Roden – Sheila.Roden@luton.gov.uk

Councillor Surgeries
Every Saturday 10am-12 noon,
Hockwell Ring Community Centre, Mayne Avenue

Lewsey

Cllr Jacqueline Burnett – Jacqueline.Burnett@luton.gov.uk
Cllr Aslam Khan – Aslam.Khan@luton.gov.uk
Cllr Hazel Simmons – Hazel.Simmons@luton.gov.uk

Councillor Surgeries
Every Saturday 10am - 12noon,
Lewsey Farm Community Centre, Landrace Road

Looking for more information?

For further information on this report or the ‘Your Say, Your Way’ programme please call us on 01582 54 87 80
or email: Community Involvement Manager: Sultan.Khan@luton.gov.uk

Upcoming community events in West Luton

Challney

The centre is planning activities including a Challney celebration awards night, a christmas party, a childrens halloween party and is looking to launch the Challney cycle hub in the near future.

For more information call Chaul End Centre on 01582 557155

Leagrave

Senior Youth Club
15th September 2015
For more information please contact Hockwell Ring Community Centre on 01582 548394

Lewsey

Lewsey Clubs Annual Awards Evening
Saturday 17th October 2015
Every year the annual awards is a major success. Nominations from coaches, managers and instructors are encouraged for awards such as ‘Best Student’ and ‘Most Improved’. The awards are an excellent opportunity for all the groups to come together, socialise and recognise peoples talent and hard work.

Lewsey Christmas Fayre
Saturday 28th November 2015
Including Stalls, Santa’s Grotto, Food Drink, Xmas Goods, Craft, Bric-a-brac, Cards

Children’s Christmas Extravaganza
(December – Date TBC)
Annual Children’s Christmas party for 5-10 year olds, will include an Entertainer, Disco, Party Games, Father Christmas, Drinks, Sweets, Crisps, and a Present from Father Christmas
For more information please contact Lewsey Community Centre on 01582 696355

Luton North and West Local Policing Team

Futures House, The Moakes, Luton LU3 3QB
Call: 101 for non emergencies
Email: LPT.CommunityLuton-North&West@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk
Web: www.bedfordshire.police.uk